

Figure 1: Maine AIDS Cases and Deaths Among
Persons with AIDS, 1982 to July, 2003

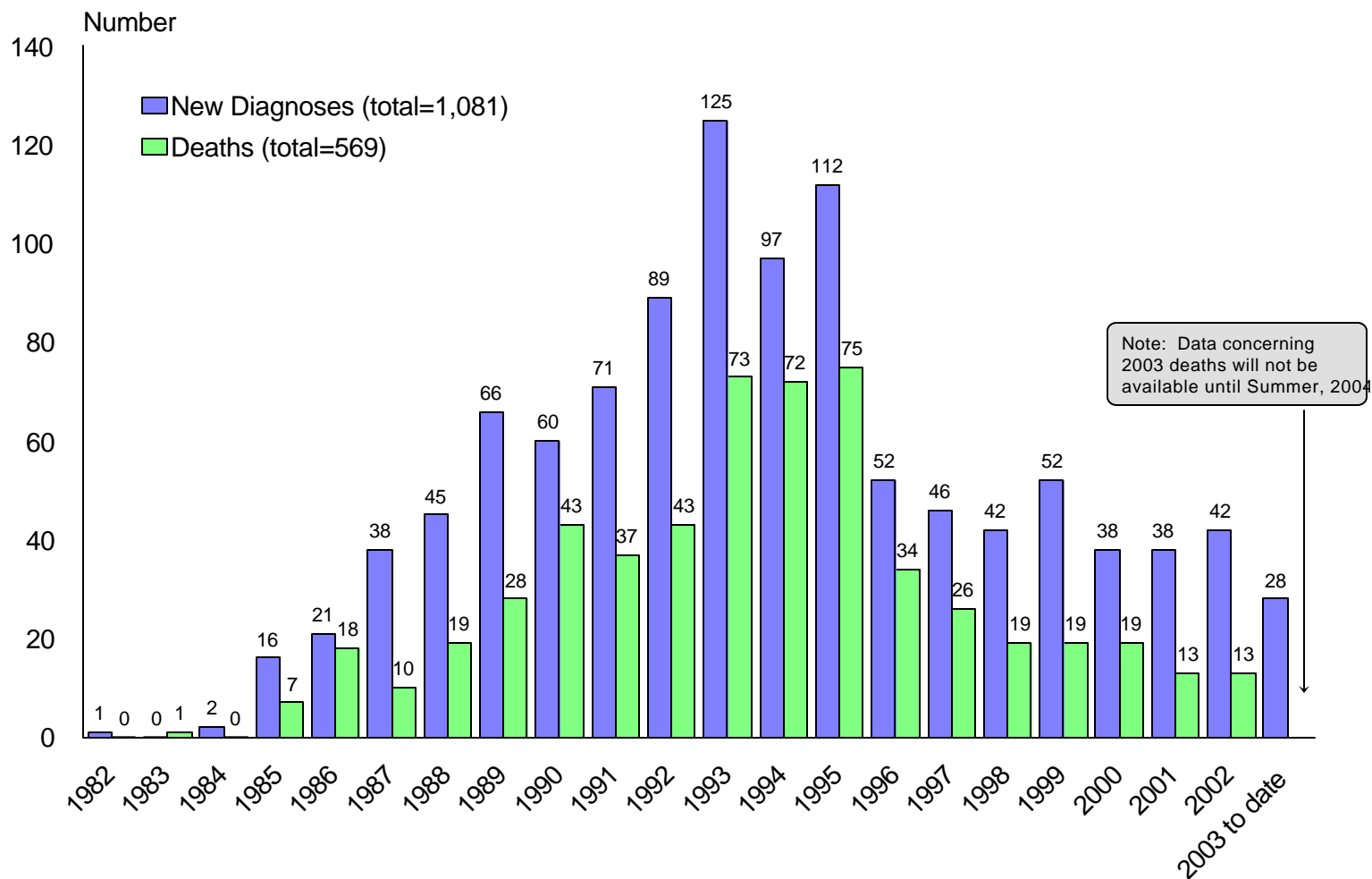


Figure 1 illustrates Maine AIDS diagnoses by year of diagnosis from 1982 to 2003, and reported deaths among persons with AIDS from 1982 to 2002. Forty-two people were diagnosed with AIDS in Maine during 2002, with 13 deaths. So far this year, 28 people received AIDS diagnoses.

The chart shows that new diagnoses and deaths declined markedly after 1996, and have leveled off in recent years, with the number of deaths 2001 and 2002 at the lowest point since the 1980's. The number of new diagnoses increased slightly during 2002.

Figure 2: Maine AIDS Cases, Deaths and AIDS Prevalence, 1982 to 2002

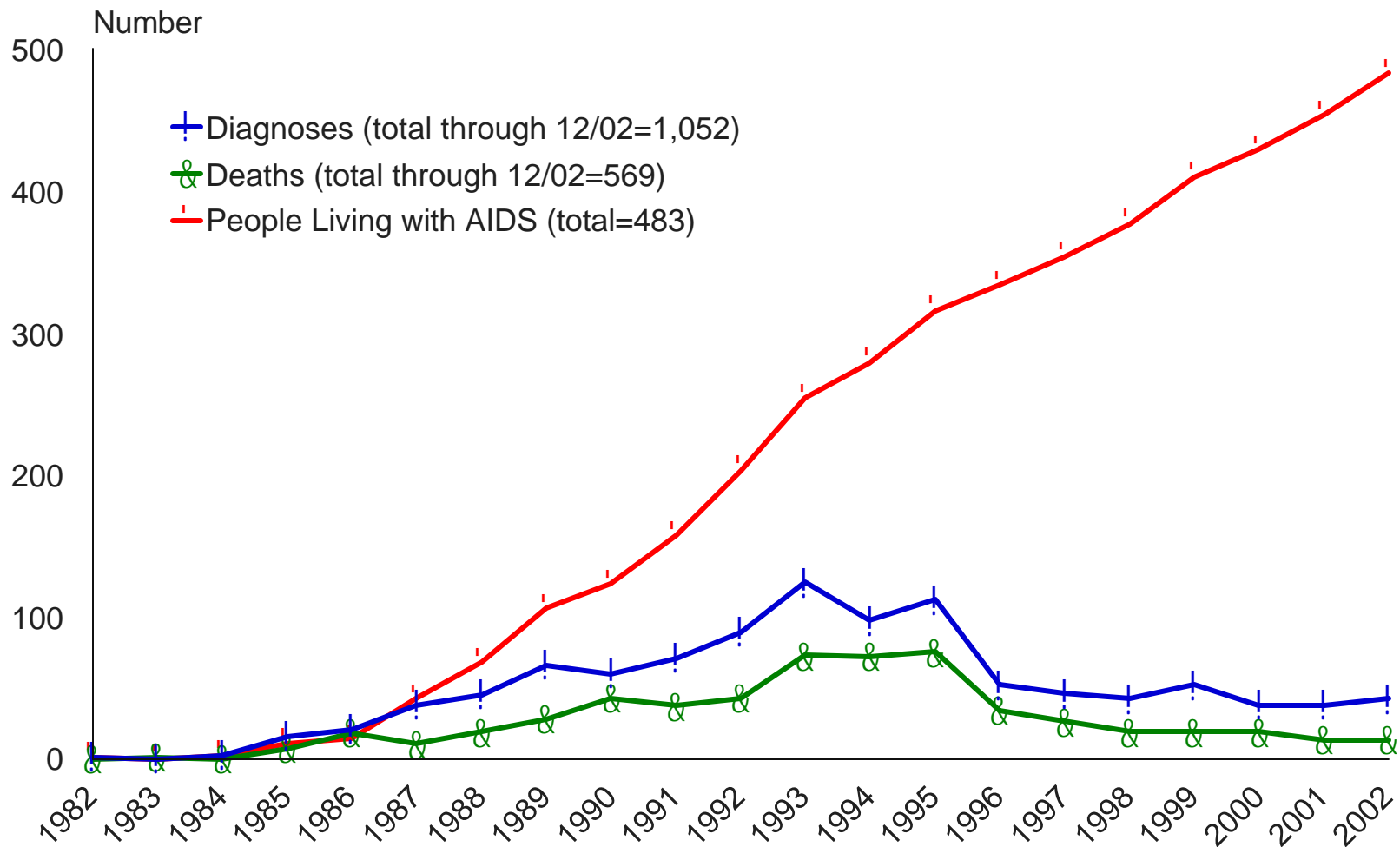
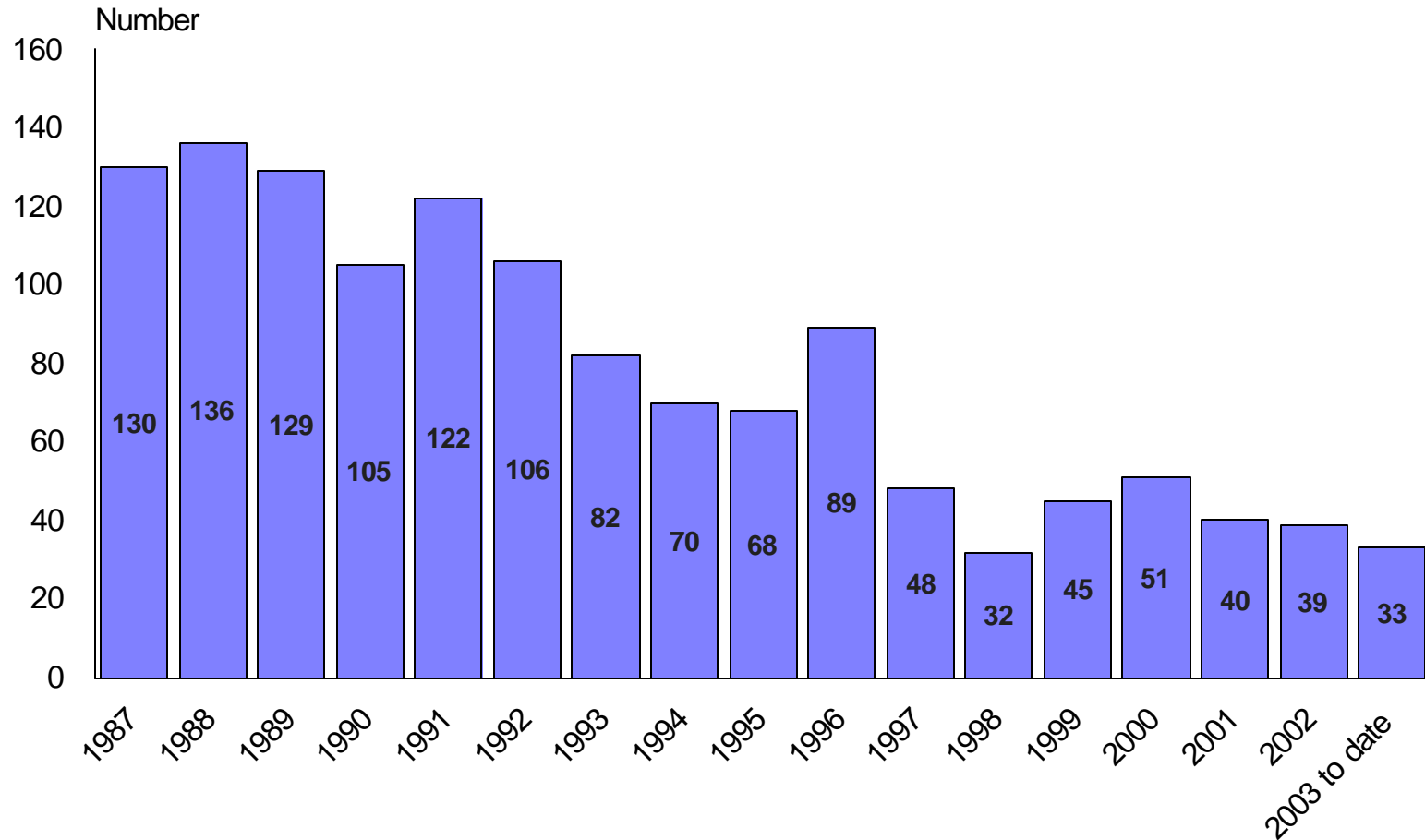


Figure 2 shows three trend lines spanning the years 1982 to 2002: the blue line with circular points represents new AIDS diagnoses by year of diagnosis, the green line with diamond-shaped points shows annual deaths, and the red line with triangular points shows the total number of people living with AIDS.

Each year since 1985 there have been more new AIDS diagnoses than deaths, meaning that the overall number of people living with AIDS has continued to increase over time. These data suggest that there are now more people living with AIDS in Maine than ever before.

Figure 3: Positive HIV Tests Reports Received by the
Maine Bureau of Health, 1987 to July, 2003



Maine Bureau of Health, 7/03

Figure 3 shows the number of HIV -positive tests reported annually to the Bureau of Health since 1987. There were 39 new HIV diagnoses reported in 2002, representing a slight decline over the 40 diagnoses reported in 2001. So far this year, 33 new HIV diagnoses have been reported. Like AIDS cases and deaths, the number of HIV diagnoses has remained stable over the past five years, ranging from a low of 32 in 1998 to a peak of 51 in 2000.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that as many as one-third of Americans who are HIV-infected don't know they are carrying the virus. These individuals may be missing out on important medical treatments and could unknowingly infect others if they engage in risky sexual activity or share drug-injection equipment. In Maine, 45% of people testing positive in 2001 received an AIDS diagnosis at or near the time of their HIV test. Since it can take years for an HIV-infected person to progress to an AIDS diagnosis, people who are diagnosed with HIV and AIDS at the same time have probably been infected with HIV for a long time without knowing.

Although there have been fewer new HIV -positive diagnoses in recent years, reports indicate that a significant number of new HIV infections continue to occur across the state. It is estimated that 1,200 Maine residents are living with HIV, and that the number of people living with HIV is increasing.